Listing and Amendments to the Claims

This listing of claims will replace the claims that were published in the PCT Application and the International Preliminary Examination Report:

1.   (currently amended) A method for optimized tracking of an optical scanner along a track ~~(1L, 1G)~~ of an optical recording medium, the track ~~(1L, 1G)~~ having information markings ~~(3)~~ arranged in dense succession, and also having fundamental changes in properties ~~(1L/1G, 1G/1L)~~ in significantly lower density, ~~characterized by~~ comprising

- formation of a track error signal ~~(TE, TECL, PPTE)~~

- detection of the occurrence of fundamental changes in properties of the track ~~(1L, 1G)~~

- formation of an offset value ~~(TO)~~ from the comparison of the value of the track error signal ~~(TE, TECL, PPTE)~~ that occurs shortly before and shortly after the fundamental change in properties

- formation of the track error signal ~~(TE, TECL, PPTE)~~, taking account of the offset value ~~(TO)~~ and

- repetition of the aforementioned steps.

2.   (currently amended) The method as claimed in claim 1, ~~characterized in that~~ wherein the detection of the occurrence of fundamental changes in properties of the track ~~(1L, 1G)~~ is effected by detection of a header area.

3.   (currently amended) The method as claimed in claim 1, ~~characterized in that~~ wherein the track error signal ~~(TE, TECL, PPTE)~~ is formed by means of one of the tracking methods: push-pull method, three-beam method and differential push-pull method.

4.   (currently amended) The method as claimed in claim 1, ~~characterized in that~~ <u>wherein</u> a different signal that is impaired by the track offset ~~(12)~~ of the scanner is formed instead of the track error signal ~~(TE, TECL, PPTE)~~.

5.   (currently amended) An apparatus for reading from and/or writing to optical recording media having tracks ~~(1G, 1L)~~ having information markings ~~(3)~~ arranged in dense succession, and fundamental changes in properties that occur in significantly lower density, the apparatus having a track control loop ~~(9, PS, 15, 7)~~ and a track property change detector ~~(16, 17)~~ ~~characterized in that~~ <u>wherein</u> it has an offset value detector ~~(19, 20, 21)~~, which, in a manner dependent on a signal output by the track property change detector ~~(16, 17)~~, generates an offset value ~~(TO)~~ from a track error signal ~~(PPTE)~~ of the track control loop and feeds said offset value to the track control loop.